

**PART II:**  
**APSR Report FY 2005**

**(4) Adoption Incentive Funds**

**Children's Administration**  
**Department of Social and Health Services**

## **Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2005 Adoption Incentive Funds**

### **Adoption Incentive Funds**

Washington received \$1,560,000 in adoption incentive money for adoptions finalized in Federal FY 2003. (This is the latest data available.) In FY 2005, these funds were used to provide information, referral, advocacy, and an emotional support network to assist parents and children to be successful as a family. Washington utilized most of the money to hire staff to promote adoption services to children and families in Washington. The hired staff members have been used to complete adoption home studies, adoption finalization paper work, adoption disclosure, recruitment and anything to assist children to establish permanency. Regional funds were also utilized for purchase of services to assist in facilitating timely placement and supervision for children via an interstate placement.

**Post Permanency Resource Centers** were identified as a need in the Kids Come First II Action Agenda, and were established in Spokane, Yakima, Seattle, and Vancouver. The project utilized \$600,000.00 in adoption incentive funds, and these regional and tribal-based centers serve adoptive, guardianship and kinship families.

Center development involved soliciting community-based input from caretakers, professionals, and social service organizations through focus groups, and a survey both mail and online. Participants in the survey and focus groups identified the following items as family needs:

- After school services
- Respite care
- Educational advocacy services
- Information and referral
- Day care
- Counseling

Regions identified existing or new service providers (including Tribal entities) with the ability to provide, at a minimum, information and referral to a wide array of services. Four social service contractors (a foster parent association, mental health center, private child-placing agency, and a University) received contracts. Two tribal organizations also received contracts; their goal to strengthen infrastructure and reduce barriers to achieving permanent plan and establish assistance with short-term family needs.

Some of the accomplishments and services provided included:

- Information and referral staff
- Lending library
- Community outreach
- Resource database
- Development of brochures and newsletter
- Training for law students to provide educational advocacy
- Support groups
- Moving long term out-of-home cases toward permanency

- Completing a conference for community coalition building with families, providers, and community organizations
- Successful grant award from a local community organization

### **Region 1**

Foster Parent Association of Spokane (FPAS) was selected as the contractor. The agency had already developed a diverse client base of foster, adopt, guardianship and kinship families. A coalition of families, providers, and community organizations formed as a result of project development activities. Upon opening the center began receiving 15-20 calls a week primarily from adoptive families. By April 2005, the center was serving 65 families by providing information, referral, home visits, and support. One hundred thirty (130) persons attended a conference planned and hosted by FPAS. Out of the effort family support groups were generated and communities began consulting on what could be done collectively to serve families.

Funds allocated: \$83,615.00

Funds expended: \$26,257.62

### **Region 2**

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Yakima was selected as the contractor for the project. Accomplishments include:

- Developed sites in two cities (Yakima and Tri-Cities)
- Set up resource library
- Community outreach to identify categories of materials needed by post permanency families
- Meeting with providers serving children
- Initiated resource database focusing on local resources
- Developed three support groups (one at each site)
- Utilized family advocates consisting of adoption and Master level interns.
- Initial newsletter mailed to 800 families
- Utilized TV interview and newspaper article to inform families about the project.
- Presentation to 82 social service professionals who work with post permanency families.

Funds allocated: \$100,000.00

Funds Expended: \$22,738.00 (as of March 2005)

### **Region 4**

Educational advocacy was the number three item listed in the survey of family needs. Families felt that school services presented a barrier for their special needs children. A contract to train educational advocates was awarded to the University of Washington Law School. The students (themselves second or third year law students) after training, would serve as educational advocates for adoptive families. After the first class session was over in the spring, students went out and held speaking engagements with community groups. Families attending the groups immediately enlisted the help of the new advocates.

Funds allocated: \$60,863.00

Funds expended: \$60,863.00

### **Region 6**

In March 2005, Children's Center in Vancouver was awarded a contract to establish a Post Permanency Resource Center. Tasks accomplished:

- Hired an Adoption Resource Coordinator
- Created a manual filing system
- Developed a data base to track services
- Established a lending library
- Designed a brochure and other materials to provide basic information about the program
- Support group
- Obtained small grant award from community organizations to continue project past state funding period.

Funding allocated: \$44,900.00

Funds expended: \$9,225.74

### **Tribal Resource Centers**

Two tribes received funding to develop services for post-permanency families: The Port Gamble S'Klallam and the Yakama Nation in Eastern Washington.

### **Port Gamble S'Klallam:**

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe was awarded Adoption Incentive funds to provide goods and services to families with guardianships established under the Tribal Court. The agreement is part of the government to government relationship. Port Gamble has identified 13 children within 10 families for whom a list of goods and services have been developed. Families have requested assistance with summer camp, household items and other services.

Funds allocated: \$8,300.00

Funds expended: Unknown at this time

### **Yakama Nation:**

The goal of the contract with Yakama Nation is to strengthen infrastructure and reduce barriers to permanency plan achievement. This contract funds activities to increase the number of accomplished permanent plans and also to increase CA compliance with federal IV-B and IV-E requirements.

Accomplishments so far:

- 38 long term out-of-home care cases are currently moving through the Yakama Nation Court system toward guardianship. They had been in placement a long time, kind of stuck in temporary status. This should improve our length-of-stay averages, for the Toppenish office primarily.
- Work is underway to amend tribal court order language to satisfy IV-E eligibility requirements. This will enable IV-E eligibility (reimbursability) for CA custody cases in care more than a year. Currently our cases lose IV-E. We anticipate significant increase in IV-E penetration rate.

Funds allocated: \$25,000.00

Funds expended: Unknown at this time